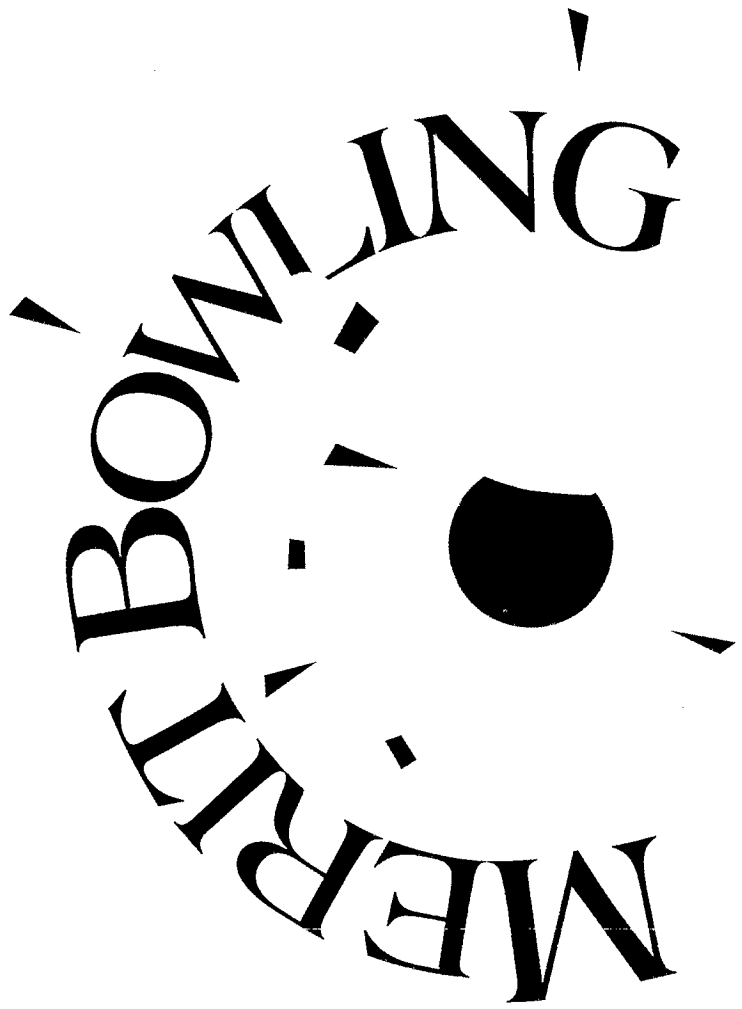


Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

PBA TOUR

LPBT

MERIT BOWLING

Bowling Proprietors Association of America, Inc.

Come see the finest professional bowlers in the world compete at the Reno Hilton December 3-5!

The top 24 PBA and 24 LPBT bowlers will team together to compete in the $200,000 MERIT MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP.

Along with the Mixed Doubles Tournament, the Professional bowlers will be paired with amateurs who have qualified for the MERIT PRO/AM CHAMPIONSHIPS on December 3 beginning at 12:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

1:00-3:00PM	Qualifying tournament for amateurs (4 games)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

8:30-9:30AM	Practice session for amateurs
9:30-10:30AM	Practice session for professionals
12:30-3:30PM	PRO/AM Tournament (4 games)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00AM	Mixed Doubles Championship (First 8 games)
4:00PM	Mixed Doubles Championship (Second 8 games)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:00AM	Mixed Doubles Championship (Final 8 games)
4:00PM	Finals - Match Play for top 8 teams (8 games)

MERIT MIXED DOUBLES PAIRINGS

1	Walter R. Williams, Jr. / Kim Couture
2	Dave Arnold / Lisa Wagner
3	Amleto Monacelli / Wendy Macpherson
4	David Ozio / Tish Johnson
5	Randy Pedersen / Leanne Barrette
6	Robert Lawrence / Anne Marie Duggan
7	Pete Weber / Dana Miller-Mackie
8	Ron Williams / Robin Romeo
9	Brian Voss / Jeanne Naccarato
10	Kelly Coffman / Dede Davidson
11	Mike Aulby / Jill ALbrecht
12	Dave Ferraro / Carol Gianotti
13	Eric Forkel / Diana Teeters
14	Parker Bohn III / Aleta Sill
15	Mark Williams / Debbie McMullen
16	Bryan Goebel / Carol Norman
17	George Branham III / Sandra Jo Shiery
18	Bob Learn, Jr. / Cheryl Daniels
19	David Traber / Michelle Mullen
20	Bob Benoit / Marianne DiRupo
21	Don Moser / Jan Schmidt
22	Norm Duke / Kim Berke
23	Dave D'Entremont / Carolyn Dorin
24	Del Ballard, Jr. / Jackie Sellers

Alternates: Kevin Couch / Nikki Gianulias

2040560526

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

You are cordially invited to attend the

1993 MERIT PRO/AM WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, December 2, 1993
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Bijou Complex at the Reno Hilton

2040560527

Admit One

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

You are cordially invited to attend the

1993 MERIT PRO/AM RECEPTION AND AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, December 3, 1993
7:00 - 10:00 pm

Globe Room/ Bijou Complex
Reno Hilton

2040560528

Admit One

Suit and Tie Optional

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

MERIT BOWLING

MERIT BOWLING
Amateur Competition Fact Sheet

WHAT: Merit Bowling is a grassroots competition held in Bowling Proprietors' Association of America (BPAA) Bowling Centers across the United States.

WHO: The competition is open to men and women bowlers, 21 years of age and older.

WHEN: First round qualifying begins in early September with local championships October 11-21. Regional and State Championships will be held November 13-14. The Merit Bowling Pro/Am Championships will be December 2-3 in Reno, Nevada.

FORMAT: Beginning in early September and continuing through mid-October, participating BPAA Bowling Centers will choose the 'high game' bowler within each league on a nightly basis. The **'Merit Stars of the Game'** will automatically qualify for local, in-house, titles.

Local winners will advance to the Regional Championships to vie for a share of a generous prize fund. The top male and female bowlers from each region will travel to Reno and the $125,000 Merit Bowling Pro/Am Championships, December 2-3.

Merit Bowling finalists will bowl a four-game series on December 2 and are paired with PBA and LPBT professionals on December 3 for another four-game series. The amateur bowlers will add their carry forward from day one and the scores of their eight professional bowling partners to their total pinfall, plus handicap for their final scores.

The tournament format for all Merit Bowling events prior to the National finals, will be a minimum of a three-game series with handicap.

MEDIA: For more information, please call:

Tip Nunn
Tip Nunn's Events, Inc.
303/892-0616

or

Rosie Crews
BPAA
817/649-6408

PBA TOUR

Bowling Proprietors' Association Of America, Inc. BPAA

LPBT

2040560529

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

© Philip Morris Inc. 1993

MERIT BOWLING

MERIT PROFESSIONAL MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT
Fact Sheet

WHAT: Merit Professional Mixed Doubles Tournament is the only mixed doubles tournament on the men's and women's professional bowling circuit.

WHEN: December 4-5, 1993

WHERE: Reno, Nevada

ENTRANTS: Limited to the top 24 men from the Professional Bowlers Association (PBA) and the top 24 women from the Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour (LPBT).

PRIZE MONEY: $200,000

FORMAT: The tournament format is a mixed doubles competition with bowlers paired as teams based on individual PBA and LPBT standings.

MEDIA INFO: For more information, please call:

Tip Nunn	Kevin Shippy	Linda Thomas
Events	PBA	LPBT
303/892-0616	216/836-5568	815/332-5756

2040560530

PBA TOUR

Bowling Proprietors' Association Of America, Inc.

LPBT

70247

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

© Philip Morris Inc. 1993

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

MERIT BOWLING

2040560531

VIA SATELLITE

USA TODAY

Sports

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1993

Williams nears all-time earnings mark

By Reid Cherner
USA TODAY

BOWLING

Walter Ray Williams will try to use a doubles tournament to perform a singular feat.

Williams, one of the greatest professional bowlers of all time, has earned $288,170 this year on the tour. The season record of $298,237 was set in 1989 by Mike Aulby.

This weekend, Williams bowls in the $200,000 Merit Mixed Doubles Championship at Hilton Lanes in Reno.

The top 24 PBA bowlers are paired with the top bowlers on the Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour. Williams has been paired with Kim Couture as they go after the $40,000 ($20,000 each bowler) first-place purse.

A victory would not only give Williams the earnings record, but would make him the first bowler to surpass $300,000. A second-place finish would earn Williams $11,000 and also give him the earnings record.

"Three-hundred thousand is a figure to look at, but more important is the record Mike Aulby holds," said Williams. "I have to win this one or finish second, but I'd much rather do it in style."

Style is something Williams has had in abundance since joining the PBA in 1983. He was Bowler of the Year in 1986 and became the game's 10th millionaire earner in 1993.

But even by his standards, 1993 has been banner year.

He has seven victories and the Merit Doubles would tie him with Mark Roth (1978) for tournaments won in a season. His current tour average of 222.91 would beat Roth's 1979 PBA record of 221.662. "I've pretty much had it go my way," said Williams. "Now, I hope for a little icing on the cake."

In the era of Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders, Williams, 34, who majored in physics at Cal Poly-Pomona, has been a two-sport standout for more than 15 years.

Williams won World Championships in horseshoe pitching in 1978, '80, '81, '85, and '91.

"My father taught me how to pitch horseshoes," said Williams. "I couldn't get enough. I practiced, practiced, practiced, and within a year I was playing against (older kids) and beating most of them. I was introduced to bowling by a horseshoe player."

Williams says he loves both sports, but horseshoes is his first love.

"I can see me more competitive in horseshoes a little bit longer, even though there is no money in it. I love bowling, this is not a case where you can have only one love."

For now, Williams' main quest is to "continue at this pace for a couple of years. This is just one year for me. There are other records for me to get."

The Merit tournament also offers the opportunity for state amateur bowlers to qualify to bowl in a pro-am featuring the same top 24 men's and women's bowlers.

2040560532

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL
SPORTS
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 3, 1993

FOC
NB/
AT

PH

TODAY'S BRIEFING

■ **Merit bowling gets rolling:** Two top amateurs from Louisiana took the early lead among 84 bowlers competing in the first round of the $125,000 Merit National Pro-Am Bowling Championships at the Reno Hilton Bowling Center.

James McGovern of Baton Rouge, La., leads the men's field with 956 pins, including handicap. Mary Lawrence of Ferriday, La., leads the women with 919, one pin ahead of Mary Adams of Irving, Texas.

Today, the amateurs will be paired with the top 24 players on the men's Professional Bowling Association Tour and Ladies Professional Bowler's Tour, competing for a $10,000 prize.

On Saturday, the professionals will compete for a share of $200,000 in a mixed doubles event, the only one in professional bowling.

Today's practice sessions begin at 8:30, with the tournament scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m.

2040560533

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Bowling tourney begins

RENO — Two top amateur bowlers from Louisiana were leading the field of 84 at the conclusion of the first round of the $125,000 Merit National Pro-Am Bowling Championships at the Reno Hilton Bowling Center.

James McGovern of Baton Rouge is atop the men's field, posting a total pinfall of 956, including handicap. The women's leader at the end of the first round was Mary Lawrence of Ferriday, who is representing Mississippi in the event. Lawrence posted a total pinfall of 919, edging Mary Adams of Irving, Texas by one pin. Lawrence also rolled the highest scratch series of the afternoon for the women with a 747 series.

The men's top five after the first round include McGovern, Michael Frelak (Lancaster, Pa./914); Jeremy Ballard (Lexington, Tenn./912); Bruce Benedict (Mtn. View Wyo./907) and Dennis Recter (Fairbanks, Alaska/875). Rector rolled the high scratch series of the afternoon with a 795 series for the four-game block.

The remainder of the women's top five includes third place finisher Pat Wadsworth (Truth or Consequences, NM/908); Ernestine Thornton, Seattle, Wash./875) and Suzanne Lambert (Swanton, Ohio/869).

Action in the merit tournament continues today, when the amateurs are paired with the top 24 players on the Men's PBA Tour and the Ladies Professional Bowlers' Tour. The men's and women's winners in today's action will win $10,000 each.

The professionals take over Saturday, competing for a share of $200,000 in prize money in the only mixed doubles event on the professional bowling calendar. The top team for the Merit Mixed Doubles Championships is the PBA's Walter Ray Williams Jr. and Kim Couture from the LPBT.

2040560534

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8, Dec., 1993

SIERRA STRIKELINE

Williams, Couture top PBA field

By Bill Miller
Sierra Strikeline

WRW II landed in Reno on Nov. 18. No, it is not a new type of jet plane.

Walter Ray Williams, Jr. - the No. 1 bowler in the world - dropped in at the Hilton Bowling Center to promote the upcoming Merit Professional Mixed Doubles Tournament.

Williams is having one of the greatest years in the history of the Professional Bowlers Assoc. He is on pace to set a new PBA scoring mark with a 222.9 average over 32 tournaments.

His seven PBA titles this year is only one off the record set by Mark Roth in 1978; Earl Anthony is the only other bowler with seven wins in a single season.

Mike Aulbey's 1989 record of $298,237 may also be in jeopardy as Williams has already banked $284,670.

Williams - the PBA points leader - has a chance at both the money and title records if he wins this final event of the year with his as-yet-undetermined partner. Kim Couture was leading the LPBT point list with one event remaining before the Merit.

Success is not new to Williams, who was the 1986 PBA "Player of the Year" when he won three titles and $145,550. He also won two more titles and $144,593 the following year.

But Williams, who now has 13 PBA wins under his belt, struggled through the 1988-90 campaigns without a victory and didn't win his sixth title until 1991, in the Japan Cup. He experienced some frustration during the five-year span, 1988-92, winning one title and "only" $501,308.

Things turned around in 1993 for Williams, however, as he has been absolutely dominating this season. He also became the PBA's tenth millionaire during the Winter Tour and now has $1,217,414 in career earnings.

Williams is uncertain as to the exact reasons but attributes it to several factors. "I was coming off a bad year," he said, "I tuned-up my attitude and entered the season with new incentive.

"Also, the lane conditions and new bowling balls seem to be conducive to my game ... and bowling is a condition sport. I picked up momentum and kept going. Except for a few mistakes on the Fall Tour, I could have done even a little better."

He said he was not overconfident, "There was maybe a little extra pressure, but I remained relaxed and just tried to bowl my game."

Williams scoffed at the notion that some top bowlers were no longer able to win because of soft lane conditions and resin balls that give everyone a chance.

"They may have made the comments because they weren't bowling well at the time," he said, "blaming lane conditions or balls instead of themselves. Tougher lanes will produce higher quality but all bowlers must figure out how to do their best on whatever the conditions are.

"Viewers see me bowling the second arrow on Saturdays, on freshly oiled lane - they don't see me playing the fourth and fifth arrow on all the late squads."

His goal is to follow this year with more good years, to perform consistently on a higher level. He doesn't know how long he'll bowl, that will depend on his level of performance, desire, and enjoyment.

Right now, those factors are all high. He loves to bowl against Pete Weber, Brian Voss, Amleto Monacelli, Dave Ferraro, and the other "top bowlers" because they are the best. "I try to beat everyone, but more so the other top players - even though they are my friends."

Surprisingly, bowling is not Williams' first love. He was inducted into the National Horseshoe Pitchers Assoc. Hall of Fame in 1988. He is a five-time World Champion; he also won three World Junior Championships as a teen.

Williams is competitive at everything he

20405605 35

See **Williams** page 12

Bowling's best — Walter Ray Williams Jr. will return to Reno Dec. 4 and 5 to compete in the PBA tournament at the Reno Hilton.

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Williams
from page 1

does. He's taking up golf but that's a little slow for him. He like bowling singles or doubles because the pace is quick. He doesn't like bowling on five-man teams because it is too long between turns.

"I don't even make a good spectator at a bowling tournament," he stated, "I just want to jump in and bowl."

Amazingly, Williams is one of the few pro bowlers who practices very little, not even during the season. His practice sessions usually last only one to one-and-a-half hours, six or eight games.

He seldom practices when not on the tour, "I usually go practice four or five days before going out. I only practice more when I need to work on my game ... I think too much practice can be a hinderance, sore hand, fingers, legs, etc."

The 34-year-old Williams doesn't seem to mind the tour, the traveling. He has a 40' fifth-wheel trailer with a tip-out and his fiance, Paige Pennington, usually travels with him. They have been together for eight years and finally got engaged last Valentine's Day.

They hang around with the "trailer set," the other bowlers who travel in motor homes or trailers and don't stay in hotels or motels. Some of their buddies are Dave Traber, Phil Ringener, Dave Ferraro, and Tony Westlake.

He doesn't care for the griping and complaining that some do on the tour. He particularly doesn't understand the "us and them" attitude of some players toward the PBA. "The organization is for us. I think they (the PBA) are doing the best they can."

Some of the overly slow players are a bit annoying at times but he defends the right of bowlers to bowl at their own tempo. "The overall temperament is okay, we all get a little noisy at times - but there is no place for outbursts like kicking ballracks."

Walter Ray's home is in Stockton, Calif., where he was raised. He watched the PBA on TV as a kid but had no particular favorite or hero. He copied a little here and there from other bowlers but is basically self-taught.

He feels the PBA is at a crossroads, "We need something good to happen ... more sponsorship ... more interest from the public and proprietors ... many bowlers don't follow pro bowling, sometimes centers don't even have the PBA show on the TV.

"Some bowlers get so wrapped up in football, baseball, and other sports (as spectators) and don't even know what is happening in the sport they are participating in. It has been disheartening to go into so many bowling centers and not be recognized," and this from a man who is really down-to-earth, friendly, and not nursing a big ego.

He is a big supporter of both the Senior PBA and the Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour. He thinks it's sad that the ladies have struggled so long, 30 years, without the recognition and prize funds they deserve.

He professed to not knowing much about the new National Bowling Stadium but did say, "It think it's a great idea, although more for the ABC. I hope it will be a great thing for bowling."

He was less enthusiastic about the revival of team bowling and the National Team Bowling Challenge. He supports team bowling, although he doesn't personally care for the pace, but thinks the Baker System of scoring is a joke.

WRW II, the live act, will be appearing at the Hilton Grand Lanes on December 3rd through the 5th, along with 47 other top men and women pros.

2040560536

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

It's the dawn of a new era in bowling

Them times, they are a changin'.

Along with the rest of the world, the face of bowling is also changing. The National Bowling Stadium is reshaping it - the special venue and return visits - and we must change with it.

In short, bowling has arrived.

Bowling is the last major participation sport to boast an arena built specifically to showcase "championship" play.

The PGA has its Augusta National golf course and the ATP has its Forest Hills facility, home of the PGA Masters and U.S. Open tennis, respectively.

Can we muster fan support for these special events - and bowling as a whole? It has to be more than just ABC/WIBC support during national tournaments.

There are always spectators in the stands at ABC tournaments - family and friends of the bowlers - and folks on the concourse at the commercial centers used by the WIBC.

But, can bowling become a true spectator sport?

The Professional Bowlers Association does manage to draw a paying crowd(?) to its events - but they are mostly hosted by centers in cities that could be considered bowling "hotbeds."

We need to do that caterpillar/butterfly thing ... there must be a metamorphosis of Northern Nevada into a bowling hotbed.

"Hah!" you say. Well, maybe. Or, then again, maybe not.

It is doubtful we'll see large crowds at the NBS except for the ABC Masters and WIBC Queens.

Attendance at the recent ABC National Team Challenge - hosted by the Reno Hilton Bowling Center in late June - was sparse, even for the televised finals. And the annual Cambridge (now Merit) Classic, an invitational event featuring top men and women pros, has been less than inspiring.

But Stadium attendance is only half of the picture. There is a big "upside" to this stadium thing. Interest! Not only by the local bowlers, but also by the community as a whole.

Editorial

by Bill Miller

There are some very encouraging signs. All the hotel-casinos, large motels, restaurants, car rentals, and other tourist related businesses are lining up to buy ads in a special Reno visitors/bowlers guide that will be shipped to the 1994 ABC in Mobile, Alabama.

It was also very encouraging that the Comstock Hotel-Casino put up $5,000 to sponsor the Draft Classic league; and Baldini's Sports Casino the same amount to sponsor the 790 Classic.

That is one element that we have long needed - sponsorship and support by the larger businesses in the area. By those who can best afford to sponsor our sport; "patron saints" to elevate bowling, including local bowling, to higher plateaus.

Yes, suddenly, all the hotel-casinos are interested in bowling. And they should be!

The economic impact of the National Bowling Stadium will be tremendous - for all businesses in the Truckee Meadows - over the next 15 years and beyond.

We, the local bowlers, must also support and promote "bowling" in the community - and tourism related businesses, with newly piqued interest, must be cultivated.

Interest! Involvement! Sponsorship!

It's hard to imagine that the Reno-Sparks area is home to so many companies with huge advertising budgets - and bowling sees so very little of that money.

This editor began his bowling in Allentown, Pa., where sponsor fees of $100 and up were not uncommon for good/high-average scratch leagues - in the 1960's.

The Penn-Jersey Classic got $200 per team and there were several other classic leagues getting $100 or more; all the teams had sponsors.

Rube's Restaurant not only put up the $100 for the Boulevard Classic league and bought eight shirts (I'll have to explain what a true classic league is at some other time), they also paid our entry fees into the city, state, and ABC tournaments.

Some "classic" league sponsors - "good" sponsors of the really talented teams - even paid weekly league fees.

And I can still tell you the name of some of those teams: Hobel's Coal & Fuel Oil, Schmidt's Beer, General Tire, Boulevard Bowl ... see, good advertising works!

The Fairview Fire Co. donated all lineage for home matches and paid all league fees in the traveling Fraternal league - while we, of course, got to keep all the prize money at the end of the year. And Allentown wasn't even a bowling hotbed like Detroit, St. Louis, or Chicago.

Get the picture?

We need to cultivate a little of that spirit around here - with the coming of the Stadium, and the increased exposure that a bowling paper can provide - the timing may never be better.

We believe that the Nevada Classic Bowlers Association needs to solicit tournament sponsors, charging $300 to $500 - or more - per event ... to be added to the prize fund.

The now-defunct Sierra Metropolitan All Stars brought that concept to the area in the late '70's when they had tournament sponsors adding $200 to the prize fund every tournament.

We acknowledge the Comstock Draft league as a trendsetter since it's inception in 1979 as the League of Champions - and also as the top league in Northern Nevada - but it is time to consider other options as well ... like an "open" classic league and/or a top traveling league, with "good" sponsorship of course.

Let's get those little wheels turning and take advantage of this sudden interest in bowling.

2040560537

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

What's hot

* Senator Packwood's Diary.

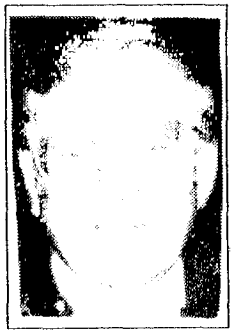
* NCBA "Bud Monticilli" Grand Finale Tournament will be at Town & Country Bowl on December 4, 1993. Watch some of northern Nevada's finest bowlers shoot for $1000 first place money.

* See the world's finest bowlers (PBA & LPBT) at Reno Hilton lanes on December 2-5, 1993, for the Merit Pro/Am Bowling Tournament.

* Great article in this months issue of the Bowling Digest about Reno's National Bowling Stadium written by Larry Paladino. Copies were sent to the Editor of the Reno-Gazette Journal, Sports Editor-Ray Hagar, and Cory Farley.

* ABC bowlers should plan now to enter the 1995 100th anniversary tourney to be held at our National Bowling Stadium. Be a part of bowling history! Do it today!

What's Hot



Mel Watson

2040560538

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

MERIT BOWLING

Thursday, December 2, 1993

Welcome to the 1993 Merit Bowling Pro/Am and Mixed Doubles Championships!

Enclosed is some basic information on the event, as well as some press clippings that were placed prior to the start of the tournament. We also have included a copy of the schedule of activities for the remainder of the week and invitations for tonight's cocktail reception and tomorrow evening's awards banquet.

If you need to give your office a number where you can be reached, you can have them leave messages, or send faxes to the press room and we will hold them for you. The numbers are:

Press Room Phone	702/785-1820
Press Room Fax	702/785-1823

Thanks again for all of your support and we are looking forward to a fun and productive event this week in Reno.

Thanks again,

Erin Martin Tip Nunn Phil Worth

2040560539

PBA TOUR

Bowling Proprietors' Association of America, Inc.

LPBT

70247

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

© Philip Morris Inc. 1993

BOWLING

Being No. 1 doesn't always mean you win

By John Trent
GAZETTE-JOURNAL

The percentages favor Walter Ray Williams Jr. at this weekend's $200,000 Merit Mixed Doubles Championship at the Reno Hilton.

"Well, theoretically, I'm the No. 1 male bowler," said Williams, 34, who has won seven PBA tournaments this season. "I'm teamed with the No. 1 lady bowler (Kim Couture). I'd say our team would be the odds-on favorite."

But even a systematic mind like Williams' realizes sports can be a finicky. Perhaps that was why Williams, who graduated with honors in physics from Cal State University-Pomona, paused.

"It doesn't mean we'll run away with it," he said, chuckling. "Anything can happen. It's a fun event. I remember a couple of years ago, Tish Johnson might've had the highest average of anyone. I know she wiped me out."

Williams, PBA Player of the Year in 1986, has had great seasons before. But nothing like this year.

"I've had a phenomenal year, obviously," he said recently from his home in Stockton, Calif. "I've had a few breaks. That's pretty much the key."

Williams said he prepared no differently for this year except in one respect.

"What I did have was a little bit more incentive," said Williams, who slipped to 13th on the money list last season with $78,000 in earnings. This year he's won more than $200,000. "Last year was one of my worst years in the last six or seven."

Williams, also a five-time world champion at pitching horseshoes, said his phenomenal success has rekindled his desire to remain on the tour for "another five or 10 years."

Pitching horsehoes also holds a strong allure for Williams.

"I still play, but there's no money in it," he said, noting that first prize at the world championships is $3,500.

"I just do it because I like it. It's something I'll do for a long time. I enjoy the competition in bowling. I'm fortunate I'm able to make some money doing it."

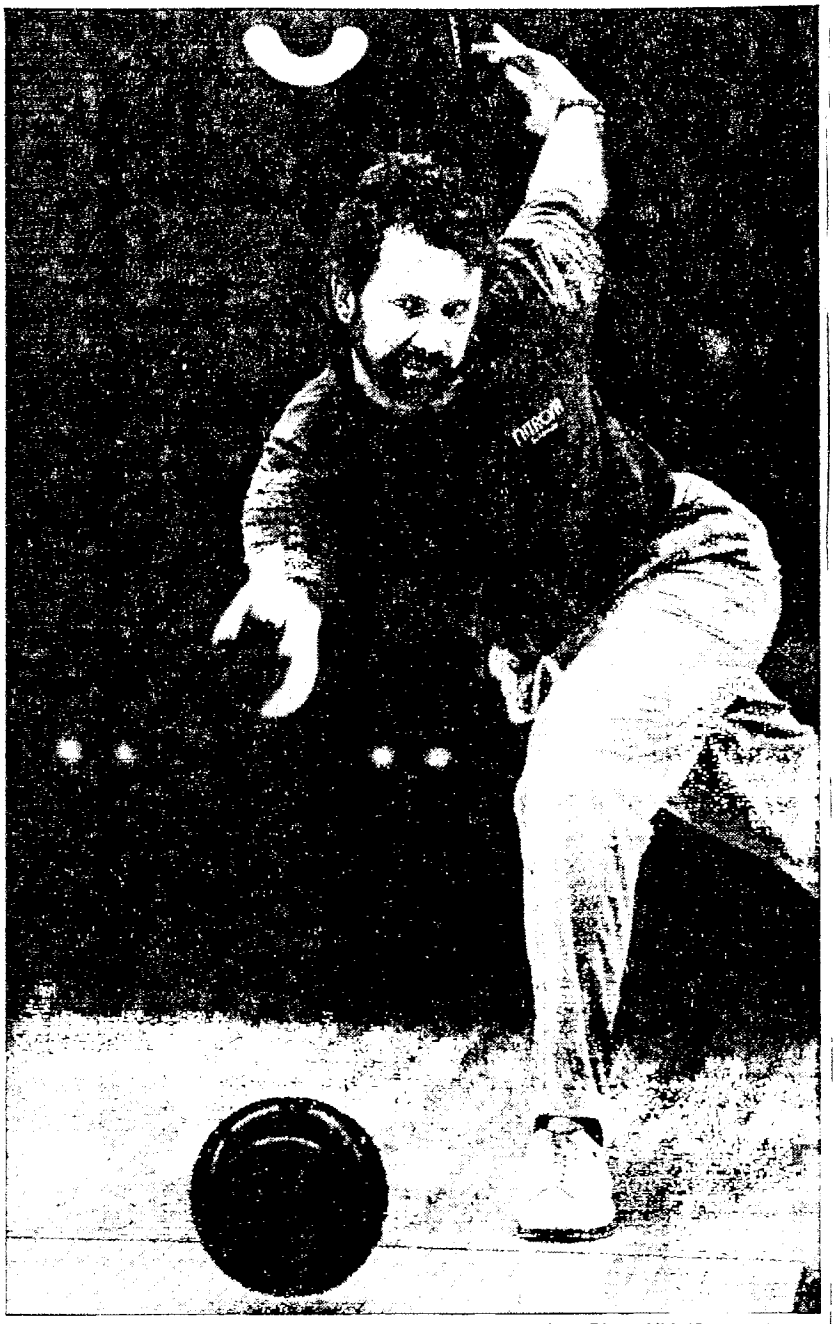
Last Sunday, Williams was reminded how fortunate he is. Without any notice, he entered a local tournament. Still, word got out.

"I didn't want to scare anybody off. I just wanted to practice. Most of the guys in the tournament, I don't think they were put off by the fact I was there."

Except for one guy. Williams beat him by two pins to collect a $150 check.

"I don't need the money," Williams said, a bit sheepishly, "but I'll take it. It paid my expenses for the tournament."

It's been that kind of a year for Walter Ray Willimas Jr. The odds have been in his favor.



Jean Dixon Aikin/Gazette-Journal

TWO-SPORT STAR: Bowler Walter Ray Williams is also a five-time world champion at pitching horseshoes.

MERIT DOUBLES
CHAMPIONSHIP

- **What:** $200,000 bowling tournament pairing the top 24 male bowlers and the top 24 female professionals.
- **Where:** Reno Hilton.
- **When:** Saturday and Sunday.
- **Times:** Eight-game play blocks at 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday; all teams return for a third eight-game block on Sunday at 9 a.m., after which field is cut to top eight teams for a final eight-game block.

2040560540

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

MIAMI HERALD (circ. 540,000)
Nov. 28, 1993

FLORIDA CLIPPING
SERVICE, INC.
P.O. BOX 10278
TAMPA, FL 33679
813/831-0961
MIAMI HERALD
AM 500000
SUN 540000
MIAMI NOV 28 1993

Williams closes in on 8 wins

Occasionally in Las Vegas and Reno, a Nevada casino will post odds on a bowling tournament being held in those gambling meccas.

Next weekend the $200,000 Merit Mixed Doubles Tournament will be held at the bowling center in the Reno Hilton Hotel-Casino.

DICK EVANS
BOWLING

Walter Ray Williams and **Kim Couture** are the favorites. Couture, who bowls out of Titusville, Fla., had a good year on the LPBT. Williams, of Stockton, Calif., had a sensational year on the PBA Tour.

Together they'll be tough to beat when they face 23 other doubles teams under the unique match-games only format.

"What can help determine the winner in this event is how well the two players bowl as a team," Williams said via phone from Reno. "Naturally, each player must bowl well. But each player must help the other get lined up on the lane properly and maybe help select the right ball for the right lane."

If Williams were bowling alone, odds on him probably would drop to 9-5 after the numbers he has posted on the PBA tour this year.

He already has set a tour record with a 222.91 average and has bowled the most games ever in a season — 1,206.

Williams also is on the brink of breaking **Mike Aulby's** money record of $298,237. Williams has earned $284,670 and must finish first ($40,000 to the winning team) or second ($22,000) to surpass Aulby's mark.

Also, and more important to making Williams' 1993 season immortal, a victory will give him eight for the year. That would tie **Mark Roth's** record set in 1978 when competition on tour wasn't nearly so tough.

"I would like to set the money record," Williams said. "But hopefully the money on tour will keep going up and one day somebody will earn more. But that eight wins in a year is a constant. ... Nobody has come close in 15 years."

Besides, the PBA's money figures are misleading. Williams actually has made about half a million this year.

The extra money comes from things like the PBA's King of the Hill TV game, KOOL Shootouts, exhibitions, TV incentives and Williams' contract with the Ebonite Bowling Ball Co.

"I would like to set the money record and tie Mark's record in the final tournament of the year ... that would be doing it in style."

It's not going to be easy. Other teams like **Wendy MacPherson-Amleto Monacelli, Lisa Wagner-Dave Arnold, Tish Johnson-Dave Ozio** and **Dana Miller-Mackie-Pete Weber** don't want to be part of Williams' history-making year.

No matter, Williams' year already has enough merit.

20405605 41

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Noblesville bowler Learned how to overcome adversity

Bowling

Mark Robinson

If ever someone deserved to succeed, it's Bill Learned. And this time the good guy came out on top.

Learned won the men's state qualifier last weekend for the $125,000 National Merit Bowling Tournament next month at Reno, Nev. The Noblesville resident tallied a 788 series (with handicap) at Clermont's Sunset Bowl to earn $200 and the all-expense trip to the Dec. 1-5 event sponsored by the Philip Morris cigarette company.

But this is more than the story of a 123-average bowler who rolled way over his head one memorable weekend. It's the inspirational saga of a man who has refused to give up after suffering a debilitating stroke in 1980.

The sponsor of this event could be no more aptly named, for Bill Learned "merits" recognition and plaudits for his accomplishment.

Thirteen years ago, Learned was on the doorstep of adulthood when he suffered the stroke. He was playing a game of flag football with some Army buddies when he absorbed an unusual blow to the neck.

One day later Learned suffered the stroke. He lay in a coma for six days.

"When I woke up I did not talk or walk or anything," Learned, now 34, said in deliberate yet near-perfect diction. "I had to learn to talk and walk again."

Therapy and rehabilitation continue today. To show how far he's come, Learned proudly pronounces that he rides a bike 20 miles a day, walks, and is an avid bowler since picking up the game four years ago.

"He works awful hard at what he does," said Jeff Salatin, manager at Cooper's Stardust Bowl in Noblesville, Learned's home center. "He practices constantly. I'd say at least six days out of the week he's in here practicing and he'll bowl maybe up to 10 games a day. He really works up a sweat.

"Compared to the way he was four years ago when he started here, it's 100 percent different. I think bowling's one of the things he's used a lot, along with his other therapy, to help him out."

The most noticeable element of Learned's physical handicap is limited use of his right hand. He must support his ball completely with his left hand, which makes his accomplishment all the more amazing. He used to be a right-hander.

Learned was presented with a plaque for his state title prior to his league play Thursday night. And he was still ecstatic.

"Everybody clapped and everything," he said, the pride and excitement ringing through the phone line. "I said, 'Oh, my gosh!'

Bowlers initially qualified for the Merit tourney by scoring most pins over their average during each game of their league's series over a four-week span (Learned had a 211). Those qualifiers competed in in-house rolloffs, with one in 10 advancing to the state finals.

Learned bested 24 competitors at Sunset to claim the men's title, winning by 39 pins over Tim Luttrell of Oakland City's Cross Alleys.

Sonia Buck of Chesterfield won the women's state crown with a 758 total that included a 318 handicap, the highest among the 22 women's competitors. It gave Cooper's establishments a sweep of the state championships since Buck bowls at Cooper's Sport Bowl in Anderson. Runner-up Tammy Caley of Huntington's Rainbow Lanes shot a 754.

Winning the trip to Reno is like an early birthday present for Buck, who'll turn 40 in December. This is only her second year of bowling, and her qualifying average for the Merit tourney was 104.

"It just seems so incredible," said Buck, the mother of four children. "I can't imagine this much publicity, but it's fun. It's encouraged me to keep bowling."

First prize at Reno is worth $25,000. All the bowlers there are guaranteed at least $500 in prize money.

Weber takes Manhattan

Any other night owls catch Dick Weber this past Wednesday on *Late Show with David Letterman*? The two Indy natives conjured up some wacky stunts, with Weber bowling on a single lane set up on a New York City street outside the Ed Sullivan Theater where Letterman's show is taped.

Weber proceeded to take aim at, among other items: a TV monitor with a still frame of pins on the screen; a glass case filled with raw eggs; a pyramid of champagne glasses; and a video camera wired to feed the video to the studio and home audience of the ball's approaching fury . . . until the crashing impact on the lens.

Once again, Weber proved he's the grand ambassador of the sport, and that he's still a pretty good shot.

20405605 42

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

BOWLING

Bowling's best no contest

DAVID WASSON

Someone asked **Walter Ray Williams Jr.** what made him tick. You know, what makes the Stockton, Calif., resident the best bowler in recent history — if not of all time.

"I want to be the best," Williams said during a telephone conversation Monday. "Doesn't everyone?"

Perhaps, but only Williams can claim to be so close to such a lofty goal in bowling. Only 34 years old, Williams is quickly making the Professional Bowlers Association history book, well, history.

The 1993 PBA season has seen Williams dominate from the opening gun to the final bell. He leads all bowlers with seven tournament titles — the most in a single season since **Mark Roth** won eight tournaments in 1978.

"I've pretty much been right the whole year," Williams said. "Only a couple instances haven't gone well. Up in Long Island, I rolled a 299 and a couple other times opponents have gotten little breaks. But I got the top seed in tournaments seven times and won seven titles.

"That in itself is good. Now I want a little icing."

The icing Williams desires is the single-season earnings record. Heading into the Merit Mixed Doubles Championship on Dec. 4-5 at Reno, Nev., Williams has amassed $288,170 — only $10,067 shy of the single-season record of $298,237 set by **Mike Aulby** in 1989.

Williams admits that the $300,000 mark is one that everyone could identify with. But he is even more interested in erasing Aulby from the record books.

A first- or second-place finish at Reno would give Williams enough to best Aulby's record.

Not only is Williams a master of bowling, but he is pretty darn tough at another underhanded sport — horseshoes. Yes, before the young Williams stepped into a bowling center, he was in the backyard pits tossing shoes.

"My father taught me to pitch shoes before I ever started bowling," Williams said. "I wanted to win at it incredibly. I would practice, practice, practice and I got good quickly."

Did he ever. Williams won five World Horseshoes Championships (1978, '80, '81, '85 and '91) and now markets his personal line of horseshoe equipment called "Deadeye."

It was through horseshoes that Williams was introduced to bowling.

"Bowling didn't come until later because I didn't have a bowling pit in my back yard," Williams said. "A lot of pros grew up in bowling centers because the family was in the business. Not me. But I still had the desire."

So let the more than $290,000 in season earnings and seven titles in 1993 speak for themselves. Let the domination of the ever-toughening PBA conditions stand alone.

Walter Ray Williams, are you the best bowler of all time?

"If you look at statistics, I'd have to agree with someone who would say that I am," Williams said. "This year, I have been the best player in the world. I'm not the best in every tournament, but I have been able to figure out conditions. I can play most parts of the lanes, make great shots and get strikes."

□ □ □

In the spirit of the season, and to further point out the insanity of our world, I now present the latest bizarre twist in the sport: frozen-turkey bowling.

The folks at The Mill Bakery, Eatery and Brewery (939-2739) in Fort Myers, in conjunction with WXKB-FM (103.7), are staging frozen-turkey bowling from 4-7 p.m. today in the parking lot outside the restaurant.

"It is a charity thing we are doing for Big Brothers and Big Sisters," said Mill owner **Paul Pierce**. "It's $2 for a 'ball' or three turkeys for $5. We will have a 50-foot, greased-down bowling alley out in the parking lot ready to go.

"Once the turkeys start to thaw out and the wings start flapping around, it'll be a funny sight."

□ □ □

A bushel of 300 games highlight this week's Southwest Florida Bowling Honor Roll.

Dave Leipzig (Travel Classic League, University Lanes), **Gary Seitz** (Little Caesars League, Coral Lanes), **Mike Mills** (Ebonite Open League, Galaxy Lanes), **Bruce Vogel** (GR Construction Management League, Galaxy) and **Maria Durrance** (Special Occasions Classic League, Miracle Lanes) all rolled 300s in league play. Durrance topped the women with a 778 series, while Mills was the leading man with a 758 series.

— David Wasson is a member of the News Press sports staff whose column appears on Tuesdays. Mail items to him at News Press, P.O. Box 10, Fort Myers, FL 33902, or fax them to (813) 334-0708.

20405605 43

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

TAHOE TRIBUNE -- NOVEMBER 19, 1993

Photo provided to the Tribune

PIN-POINT COMMAND: Walter Ray Williams of Stockton, Calif., has won seven PBA events this year.

'King of underhandedness' rolling toward a record

Williams can break Aulby's earnings mark Dec. 4-5 in Reno

BY TIM PARSONS
Tribune Staff Writer

Roger Maris once hit 61 home runs in a season, breaking a record many thought would never be broken. No one ever rushed for more yards than Eric Dickerson in 1984. This year, Walter Ray Williams is bidding to have the greatest bowling season ever.

Williams name will go in record books if he can earn a victory at the Merit Mixed Doubles Championship in Reno on Dec. 4 and 5, the final Pro Bowlers' Association event of the season.

A win would put Williams' 1993 earnings at more than $300,000, which would break Mike Aulby's 1989 record of $298,237. It would also give the 34-year-old from Stockton, Calif., eight PBA victories, which would tie Mark Roth's 1978 record.

"No matter what happens, I will be happy with what I have done this year," Williams said. "But it would definitely be icing on the cake to get that eighth title and tie that record. In the last 15 years, nobody has even come close to it."

Nobody has been close to Williams' earnings this year, either. He has made more than $130,000 than his closest competitor.

He also is on track to post the best average ever. Williams is averaging 222.9. Roth's record is 221.6.

Williams' amazing season follows one of disappointment.

"Last year was a not-so-great year," said Williams, who turned pro in 1983. "I was disappointed with the way I bowled. I had more desire this year and used a new ball."

Williams is a lock to be named Player of the Year for the second time. He first won the award in 1986, when he earned $145,550.

At the Greater Harrisburg Open in August, he had a PBA-record four 300 games in three days.

Although he lives in Stockton, Williams jokes he is from "All over, California." He has lived in San Jose, Eureka, Auburn and Pomona, where he went to school, earning a degree in physics.

He says his education doesn't necessarily help his bowling, but competitors from a summer tournament in Homestead, Fla., might not believe him.

Williams noted the lane conditions and opted to shelve his reactive resin ball in favor of a hard plastic ball. The other bowlers stayed with the reactive resins, and Williams earned another victory.

See UNDERHANDEDNESS, Page 16A

2040560544

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Underhandedness

Continued from Page 13A

"Physics hasn't really helped my bowling, but it helps me look at things differently compared to most people," he said.

If you think Williams' tactics were underhanded, you are paying him a compliment. His nickname is "The King of Underhandedness."

He's also called "Deadeye," and it has nothing to do with his bowling.

Williams has won five world horseshoe pitching championships, and said he enjoys the sport more than bowling.

He has competed in the last 24 world championships, which usually require him to miss a PBA event. He doesn't regret skipping the coinciding PBA event this year, considering Aulby won it with a 300 game.

Williams has his own line of "Deadeye" horseshoes. "I am not getting rich or anything off it, but bowling does pretty good."

Indeed, the single-season prize list earnings is the record he covets the most.

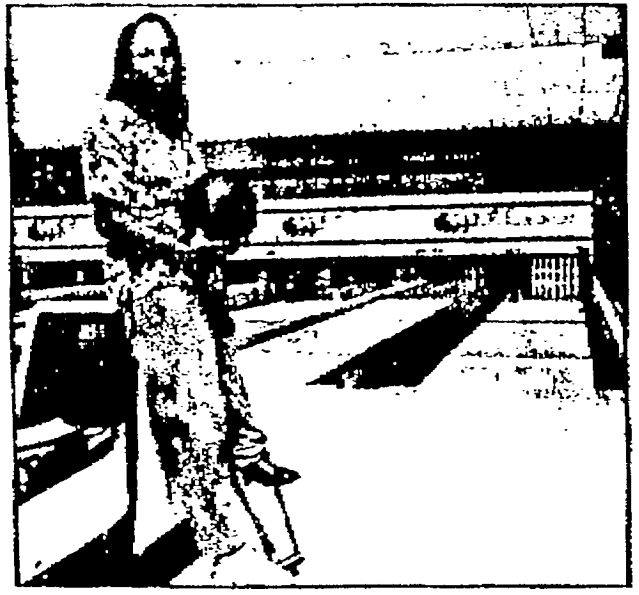
"That would be an all-time topper kind of thing," he said. "I am going to go out there, give it my all and hope it will work."

2040560545

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Alexandria (LA) Daily Town Talk (circ. 42,000)

■ Please see TOMPKINS, B-9



Stephen Reed — Staff photographer

Odessa Wilson has not let her handicap slow her down on the bowling lanes. She bowled a 220 during a recent state tour-

Handicap doesn't slow her down

By Bob Tompkins
Sports Editor

You can understand why Ed Wilson, a man who admits he never shows his emotions, remembered the moment and said, "My heart was rejoicing."

Wilson's wife, 32-year-old Odessa, had just been announced as the champion of the Merit Challenge women's state championship bowling tournament at Tiffany Lanes in Mandeville.

It was the first time in her life she had ever won any athletic competition.

Odessa Wilson has polio, but she hasn't let it whip her. Her left leg is half as long as her right. It has been so since she was born. She wears a brace on her left leg to help her walk.

As a child, growing up in the community of Whiteville, 18 miles south of Dunkle, Odessa liked to play basketball. She could beat her brother and sisters in games of "HORSE" and even one-on-one.

She didn't play for her school teams, however, because of the toll running full court for so long would have had on her hip, which has an artificial plate.

By the time she married Ed Wilson 11 years ago, though, she had outgrown p.e. classes and backyard basketball games with siblings. Ed, a league bowler with a 197 game average, encourgaed her to take up the game. Two years ago, she finally took him up on it.

"I wouldn't let this stop me," she said, looking at her leg with the brace. "I would never let this stop me from doing what I want to do."

One of nine children, Odessa said she never received much encouragement at home to participate in sports.

"But Ed keeps telling me I can do anything I want to do if I put my mind to it."

Last month Odessa, who lives in Alexandria with her husband and two children, decided to enter the qualifying tournament at the Four Seasons Bowling Center for the Merit Challenge. This is a tournament open to all bowlers, and only one bowler, male and female, from a bowling center can advance to the state tournament.

Although she competed against only one other bowler, Odessa qualified for the state tournament. There, on the weekend of Nov. 6-7 in Mandeville, she bowled against 21 other qualifying champions from across Louisiana to bowl a three-game 581 scratch series, an 830 handicap to win the women's title.

She owns a 127 game average, but she rolled a lifetime best 220 at the state tournament.

By winning the state title, she has qualified for an expenses-paid trip to the national finals of the Merit Challenge in Reno, Nev. on Dec. 1.

When her name was called out as the state champion at Tiffany Lanes, Odessa said she started to cry. "I had often been to events and heard other people being called out as state champions and being cheered, and I dreamed that maybe that could happen to me some day."

One of the proudest people present to see the event was her husband.

"I told her, 'People are gonna talk about you and say you can't do it, but you just give it your best.' I told her to just keep pushing on," Ed said.

She did. Now and then, after a disappointing shot, she'd look back at her husband for support. She knew he had confidence in her and drew strength from that.

■ Please see HANDICAP, B-9

Handicap

■ Continued from B-1

When it was over and Odessa was announced as the champion, everyone present stood and cheered for her.

This is when Ed Wilson's heart rejoiced.

"I was so proud of her," said Ed, "because she had actually won it on her own. I may have coached her and helped her, but she had actually gone out there and won it on her own."

2040560546

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000

Green Bay, WI
News-Chronicle
Green Bay Met Area

Tuesday D 9,630

SEP 7, 1993

N5710

Thyes moving in a new direction

Brian Thyes suggested in a disheartening manner that he was taking a break from the PBA Tour.

It appeared that maybe he was a little tired of getting his butt kicked.

It's not that he's bowling bad. Matter of fact, he's up 10 pins.

Put him on the Midwestern Tour sprint; Thyes shines.

Put him on the PBA track and he runs out of gas.

Thyes is just as bewildered as anybody.

"Not a whole lot of confidence left," Thyes admitted. "I'm not sure what I'm going to do. I can't make money throwing 300s."

Thyes threw his fourth PBA perfecto last month during a regional event.

"Maybe it's time to look in a new direction," he said. The conversation took place about a month ago.

No sooner that he ended those last words, I found him in 29th place and averaging 213 at the $250,000 Choice Hotels Summer Classic in Edmond, Okla.

Eat this he "choicefully"

Bowlers Beat

Tina M. Gohr
News-Chronicle Bowling Reporter

seemed to beller back.

The celebration was brief. Thyes ended just shy of cashing . . . again.

But ahh . . . Next week came $855 for 45th place.

On the regional tour is a totally different Brian Thyes.

During stops this summer, he has finished third in Cape Girardeau, Mo., for $950 and fifth in Cedar Rapids for $700. Checks along the way also came at 21st ($155), 22nd ($370) and 31st ($153). Twice he's been the top qualifier of tournaments. He also won $1,300 in a sweeper in St. Charles, Mo. Three times Brian missed cashing by less than 20 pins.

Does he still feel as lowly as he did a month ago? "I'm bowling better this year than last. I've made about $25,000 this year. I still could be doing better financially. That's what I'm disappointed in."

You see, better bowling didn't equal more money for 1993. Thyes is up 10 pins (216 on the Midwest and 210 on the PBA Tour), but so is practically everybody else up in average.

It's made for added frustration. His hesitancy on whether to climb back on the PBA Tour now hinges on a self-transitional period. "I'm looking down the road a little further. Everything is still up in the air. We're (fiancee Sheila Rasmussen) trying to get our priorities straight. It may or may not include going back on tour. It's not that I'm bowling horrible. Then again, it's nothing a couple of good tournaments couldn't solve," he chuckled.

■ Other local bowlers have picked up checks on the PBA Midwest Tour this summer. Scott Weber rallied to 12th in Sheboygan for $500. Tom Sawyer missed cashing by one pin and six pins at two stops before taking 29th in Cedar Rapids for $136.

■ A co-worker handed me a manufacturers' coupon claiming "my name was written all over it." Adding, "That is, in case you decide to start smoking again," she smiled.

"Buy 2 packs of Merit cigarettes; bowl a game free," it proclaimed. Gee whiz, my ex-favorite brand and my favorite sport.

Best of all, it had one of those nifty 800 numbers to call "for your nearest participating center."

I like 800 numbers. You can hum and make noises while the computer answers your call.

El wrongo.

Egad, a human answered! "Welcome to Merit Bowling. The zip code in which you would like to know your participating center?" asked the young man, who must have been new at the job and stumbled on a couple of words. It was my only hint I wasn't talking to a computer.

"5-4-3-0-4," I replied.

A slight delay.

"Ashbhilealhaifpqesfasinon," he blurted.

"Say what?"

"It's located at 2929 Allied," he clarified.

Holding back hysterical laughter, just for kicks I asked him to repeat the name of the center again (which was Ashwaubenon).

■ Jeff Graunke of Green Bay earned $80 for surviving three rounds of a Wisconsin Scratch Bowlers Tour event Aug. 28 at Racine. Picking up $50 were Jason Wyckoff and Mike Whiffen. Steve Richter of Sheboygan won the event.

The WSBT (formerly NEWNPBA) arrives here Sunday, Sept. 19 with an 11 a.m. kick-off (rejoice guys, it's the bye).

Contestants bowl four games of qualifying with the top half advancing to single elimination matchplay. Cost is $55. A $10 deposit is required by Sept. 15. Walk-ins will be assessed $5. Membership fee is $15.

More information contact the WSBT at P.O. Box 3484, Oshkosh, Wis. 54903 or call 1-800-227-9728.

■ John Burkett of the Giants isn't the only pitcher listing bowling as their favorite pastime. Les Lancaster of the Cardinals and Mitch Williams of the Phillies also are publicly proclaimed bowlers.

A trio of Minnesota Twins players took it one further. They bowled in a league a couple years ago. The lineup included Tim Laudner, Kent Hrbek and Gary Wayne.

20405605 47

Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/xzdl0000